Strength of NIC

937. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present strength of National Informatics Centre (NIC);

(b) whether there is any proposal to expand it; and

(c) what are the functions of NIC as of now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) The present strength of National Informatics Centre (NIC) is 3611.

(b)No, Sir.

(c) To provide e-governance network backbone and e-govemance support to Central Government, State Governments/Union Territories, District Administrations and other Government bodies.

Encouragement to Foreign Investors

938. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign investors have not shown encouraging investments in Indian Telecom sector because of BSNL dictate in the sector;

(b) whether it is a fact that operators using GSM services attract more foreign investors than operators using CDMA services;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to encourage foreign investors to invest in CDMA technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Operators in GSM service have attracted more foreign equity than those in CDMA services.